

October 1, 2021

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FROM: Stephanie Burke, Montgomery County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections

### **IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR VOTERS FOR CITY/SCHOOL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 2**

The regular city/school election will be held as a combined election on November 2, 2021. The city/school election will use the regular general election precincts. Voters will go to the polls for this election at the same place that they vote for a regular general (presidential or gubernatorial) election. The Iowa legislature made many changes that will affect voters in its 2021 session, which changes will go into effect for the city/school election.

Voters wishing to receive a ballot by mail for the city/school election will need to complete an absentee request form and return it to the Montgomery County Auditor's Office, 105 E Coolbaugh, PO Box 469, Red Oak, before 5:00 p.m. on October 18. This is sooner than it has been in the past. Due to recent legislation, a request for a mailed ballot must be received 15 days before the election (formally 11 days). Request forms are available at the Auditor's office, on the Montgomery County website at [www.montgomerycountyaia.gov](http://www.montgomerycountyaia.gov), and at the Iowa Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.iowa.gov](http://www.sos.iowa.gov).

It is anticipated that absentee ballots will be available for the city/school election on October 13. This is the first day that absentee ballots may be mailed to voters. It is also the first day to vote absentee in person at the County Auditor's Office. Eligible voters may vote in person at the County Auditor's Office until November 1 at 5:00 p.m. The Auditor's office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

All absentee ballots must be received by the County Auditor by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 2. Postmarks or bar codes printed on ballot envelopes will no longer make a ballot received after Election Day valid except ballots from participants in the Safe at Home program received by the Secretary of State in time to be transmitted to the County Auditor by noon on the Monday following the election and ballots from uniformed and overseas citizens received by noon on the Monday following the election.

The only people who may return a voted absentee ballot to the County Auditor's Office other than the voter are someone living in the voter's household, an immediate family member, the special precinct election officials who deliver a ballot to the resident of a health care facility, or a delivery agent if a voter is unable to return a ballot due to blindness or other disability. Per legislation, the Auditor's office cannot accept any

election forms or ballots that are placed in the county drop box that is located south of the courthouse.

Polls will be open for the city/school election on November 2, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Employers must allow employees two consecutive hours to vote on Election Day if the employee does not already have two consecutive hours off during the time the polls are open.

For more information about the 2021 City/School Election or general election questions, please contact the Auditor's office at 712-623-5127. You can also visit the county website at [www.montgomerycountytia.gov](http://www.montgomerycountytia.gov). Keep up with the latest Montgomery County Election happenings by following the Montgomery County Auditor & Elections facebook page.